

Clothing in the past.

Science-Based Interactive Tour and Hands-on dyeing workshop.

Class Level: 1st – 6th Classes **Group size:** 30 max per visit

Duration of visit: 2.5 Hours

Part One: Interactive Tour (1 Hour) **Break:** 30 minutes **Part Two:** Dyeing Workshop (1 Hour)

Part One: Science Based Interactive Tour

Curriculum Links:

SESE Science (Living Things: Plants & Animals; Materials: Properties & Characteristics of Materials and Materials & Change). Also History, Geography, Arts & Crafts, English & Personal Development.

Brief Description:

Tour/Workshop: Focusing on the 'Aran Islands Clothing' and 'Clothing the Family' sections of the galleries, particular attention is drawn to the clothing styles, the raw materials and the processes and techniques involved in making the clothes
Activity (Materials & Change: Wool Processing): the group is shown fleece in its raw state, how to card raw fleece and how to use a drop spindle. The group will be given an opportunity to use the carders and drop spindle.

Aims & Objectives:

The aim of this workshop is to use the clothing of the ordinary people in the past to explain the different techniques and processes involved in manipulating raw materials to create clothing. Students will be able to:

- Examine the clothes worn by the characters in the Aran Island Exhibition.
- Learn about the materials used in the production of clothing: Wool, Linen, Cowhide, etc.
- Learn about the sources of the raw materials: Animal - Sheep/Fleece/Wool; Vegetation - Flax/Linen



- Learn about natural fibres and their properties; focusing on wool and linen. To compare and contrast the characteristics of natural and manufactured fibres
- Learn about the use of wool in the production of clothing: Sorting, Washing, Carding, Spinning, Knitting, Weaving, Sewing, Embroidery, Needleworking, etc.
- Have better understanding of process involved by taking part in carding and spinning demonstration.
- To identify the theme of self sufficiency, local production and recycling
- Learn new terminology associated with textiles: fibre, yarn, lanolin, carding, warp, weft, etc.

Preparation needed:

An introduction to clothing and materials would be useful.

Materials & Equipment:

All material will be provided Raw Fleece, Carders, Drop Spindle, Spinning Wheel, Clothing (handling collection), etc.

Follow Up Activities:

Worksheet: What did you learn? Take a look at the words you learned in our glossary.

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Part Two: Activity: Dyeing Experiment

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Brief Description:

Background: An introduction to clothing in the past, the processes involved in dyeing, natural and chemical dyes

Experiment: Part 1: Dyeing material using red cabbage. Part 2: Using left over cabbage water as an indicator for acids and alkalis.

Aims & Objectives:

The aim of this experiment is to explain the different techniques and processes involved in dyeing clothing in the past and to use red cabbage to show how natural dyes can be used to give colour to material.

Students will be able to:

- Learn about natural dyes and where they are found. Relate differences between Natural and Chemical dyes.
- Understand the processes involved in dye material
- Understand what is acid and alkali.
- Learn how to dye material using red cabbage through hands on dyeing activity
- To identify the theme of self sufficiency, local production and recycling
- Learn new terminology associated with dyeing



Pre-visit Preparation:

An introduction to materials and dyeing would be useful (also acids and alkalis)

Materials & Equipment:

All materials will be provided. Half a red cabbage, knife, hot water, several small bowls, slotted spoon, dropper, scraps of white material (cotton sheet for example), soap, vinegar, lemon juice, bread soda, kitchen paper and newspapers.

Follow Up Activities:

Recreate experiments in the classroom and test substances such as orange juice, Coca Cola, toothpaste, etc. What does the colour change tell about these things?

Teacher's Comments:

'Activities were excellent and well organised'.

'Activities very well presented and very suitable for the class'. **St. Edwards' NS**

'Excellent, patient delivery' **St. Patrick's Boys' NS**

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